8.Cc
~~966.c.25~~
~~8~~

A
TREATISE
ON THE
ANANAS
OR
PINE-APPLE,

Containing plain and eaſy Directions for raiſing this
Moſt excellent FRUIT *without Fire, and in much higher Perfection*
Than from the STOVE.

Illuſtrated with an elegant Copper Plate, in which is exibited, the new invented PINE-FRAME, &c. peculiarly adapted for that Uſe; with another, ſhewing the Fruit colour'd from Nature.

To which are added, full Directions for raiſing MELONS.

By ADAM TAYLOR Gardener near *Devizes.*

DEVIZES:
Printed by T. BURROUGH, for the Author,

And Sold by *Meſſ.* ROBINSON *and* ROBERTS, *in Pater-Noſter-Row*; *Mr.* ROBSON, *in New Bond Street*; *Mr.* ROSE, *No.* 2 *Goodge Street, Oxford-Road, London*; *Meſſ.* PALMER *and* BECKET, *in Briſtol*; *Mr* FREDERICK, *in Bath*; *Mr.* EASTON, *in Saliſbury*; *Meſſ.* MERRILLS, *in Cambridge*; *Mr.* PACK *and Mr.* TESSYMAN, *in York*; *Mr.* SLACK, *in Newcaſtle*; *Mr.* BAKER, *in Tunbridge*; *Meſſ.* FLACTONS, *in Canterbury*; *Meſſ.* TOFT *and* LOBB, *in Chelmsford*; *Mr.* SILVER, *in Sandwich*; T. BURROUGH, *in Devizes*; *By all other* BOOKSELLERS, *and the* AUTHOR. M DCCLXIX.

ADVERTISEMENT.

" THIS Book is entered with the
" Company of Stationers of LONDON,
" and whoever preſumes to pirate it, or
" any part thereof, will be proſecuted
" with the utmoſt ſeverity of the Law.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

N. B. Thoſe Treatiſes for raiſing the ANANAS *without fire, &c. only are Genuine, that are ſign'd with my Name,*

Adam Taylor

THE

PREFACE.

OF all the vegetable Productions intended for alimental Food, with which the bounteous God of Nature hath ſupplied Mankind, the Two, which are made the Subject of the enſuing Treatiſe, have amongſt us deſervedly obtained the higheſt Eſtimation. Theſe are the MELON *and the* PINE-APPLE. *With Reſpect to the Characters of which two Plants, the candid Reader may perhaps expect in this Place to have ſomewhat more particularly premiſed; tho' I judged it improper to detain him with it in the Work itſelf.*

The MELON *belongs properly to the twenty-firſt* Claſs *of* Linnæus, *termed* Monœcia, *which comprehends ſuch Plants as have no hermaphrodite Flowers, but bear both male and female on the ſame Plant. Its Place is in the tenth* Order *of this* Claſs *called* Syngeneſia, *which contains ſuch Plants as have their male Flowers furniſhed with* Filaments *or* Stamina *that have united* Antheræ.

The ſeveral Species of the Melon *produce an oval channel'd Fruit, divided into three Capſules, which are cut into three parts, and full of oblong ſeeds.*

The Vine, as it is uſually called by Gardeners, which bears this Fruit, has long trailing Stalks, furniſhed with ſeveral Tendrils or Claſpers, and is rough and hairy as well as the Leaves, which are ſomewhat like Cucumber Leaves, but rounder. The Flowers are Yellow, of the ſame ſhape with the leaves, but ſmaller than the Flowers of the Cucumber. Theſe again are ſucceeded by pretty large oval Fruit, which ſometimes is divided, as it were, into ſeveral parts by deep furrows running lengthways, like the Sections of the ſeveral Meridians impreſſed upon the artificial Globe. At other Times the Fruit hath its outſide covered with a kind of raiſed Net-work. The inſide of it is of a rediſh Colour, when it is ripe, of a very pleaſant and inviting Scent, and of a much ſweeter Taſte than

than the Cucumber is, having a great Quantity of flat oblong Seeds included in a moiſt watery Pulp. The Seed is uſed in Phyſic, and is one of the greater cold Seeds, and a very common ingredient in Emulſions, being kindly cooling and obſerved by Experience to be proper and uſeful in Fevers and other inflammatory Diſtempers. It alſo miniſters relief in Affections of the Bladder and Urethra, proceeding from Stone, Strangury and Heat of Urine. J. Bauhine *gives an Account of a particular Species of this Plant, which he calls the* Melo longus, *or* long Melon, *four Spans in Length, and incurvated like a Cow's Horn.*

Pliny *the elder gives to the Fruit the Reſemblance of a Quince, and ſays that they were called* Melopepones: *That one of them firſt grew by Chance in the* Campania *in* Italy, *and that the Country was ſtocked afterwards from the Seed which it produced. Beſides the admirable Figure, Colour and Scent of this Fruit, he reckons it particularly wonderful that, tho' it does not hang from a Tree, as all other Fruit of the Apple-Kind does, but grows upon the Surface of the*

Earth, it ſhould yet, when it is come to its Maturity, ſtart and recede from the Stalk or Stem in the extraordinary Manner that we lways ſee it.

But to the ANANAS *or* PINE-APPLE, *the preference is always given by Connoiſeurs in Taſte.*

This Plant is of the ſeventh Order (Polygynia *or* having many Styles) *of the thirteenth* Claſs, *in the Syſtem of the great Botaniſt* Linnæus, *termed* Polyandria. *The whole Claſs conſiſts of ſuch Plants as bear hermaphrodite Flowers furniſhed with many Filaments fixt (not to the Cup, but) to the fleſhy Subſtance at the Head of the Footſtalk within the Cup. This particularly has a Flower conſiſting of one Leaf, which is divided into three Parts, and is Funnel-ſhaped. The Embryo's are produced in the Tubercles. Theſe afterwards become a fleſhy Fruit, full of juice. The Seeds, which are lodged in the Tubercles, are very ſmall, and in a manner Kidney-ſhaped.*

Of the ſeveral Species of this Fruit, cultivated in Europe, *the Reader will find a ſatisfactory Account in the Body of the ſubſequent Treatiſe; ſo that a further Deſcription may be judged unneceſſary here. There are however*

however many more to be found in the Countries which have a Soil and Sun proper to the production of them. Theſe have ariſen from Seeds, and differ in the Shape and Colour of their Fruit. As any of them ſhall happen to become common in Europe, *I can only recommend it to the Public to encourage the good, and reject the Sorts that ſhall prove indifferent.*

The Fruit of the PINE-APPLE, *which undoubtedly ſurpaſſes all the Fruits with which the World is at preſent acquainted, is produced from an herbaceous Plant, having Leaves ſomewhat reſembling thoſe of the Aloe, and which are for the moſt part ſerrated or ſawed on the Edges, but much thinner, more ſlender, and leſs juicy. The Fruit correſponds in Shape with the Cone of the Pine-Tree; to which Circumſtance it is in all Probability indebted for its Denomination.*

We now meet with it both in the Eaſt *and* Weſt Indies *in great Plenty and of extraordinary Goodneſs. But it is only of late Years that the Plant has been introduced into the* European *Gardens, ſo as to produce tolerable Fruit. The firſt Perſon who ſucceeded*

ceeded in the Attempt was Mr. Le Cour *of* Leyden *in* Holland. *This Gentleman, after having made various expenſive efforts to little Purpoſe, at length hit upon the proper Method and Temperature, raiſing Fruit, which was ſaid to be equal in Goodneſs and Flavour to that of the* Weſt Indies. *But I cannot be of opinion that any exotic Fruit, raiſed by Fire in cold climates, can be equal to that which is produced and matured upon the natural Soil by the generous warmth of the fervent Sun. However, to this worthy encourager of the Art of Gardening, who ſpared neither Pains nor Coſt in the proſecution of it, all, who are fond of the ſame ſalutary Employment, or reap the Benefit of it, are indebted for this King of Fruits. For tho' large Quantities of it have been ſince imported from our Settlements in* America, *it was from him that our Gardens in* England *were firſt ſupplied. And the Author of the following Treatiſe preſumes that he may plead ſome Merit with the Public, in having been the firſt who has brought it to an improved Size and excellence without the Aſſiſtance of Fire.*

A TREATISE ON THE ANANAS OR PINE-APPLE.

THE ANANAS OR PINE-APPLE, in Deliciouſneſs of Taſte and exquiſite Flavour, ſo far exceeds all other Fruits, that the Production of it in any tolerable Degree of Excellence is become the faſhionable Teſt of good gardening. He therefore, who ſhall lay down a Plan ſor the culture of it, by which it may be produced in higher Perfection, with more Eaſe, and leſs Expence, than we have hitherto known it in this Climate, will confer an acceptable Service on the Public. Such is my Deſign in this Treatiſe, which I offer in Confidence of a favourable Reception, becauſe I do not preſume to amuſe them with any imaginary Hypotheſis: But to lay before them ſuch a Method, as I have ſound in all Points eaſily practicable, and by which this favourite Fruit has been improved to a Degree which myſelf at firſt conceived ſcarce poſſible. So that what I have given is the reſult of ſome Years Experience of my own, and may be fully depended upon, as it admits of the Atteſtation of many Perſons, whoſe Taſte and Judgment are unqueſtionable.

In order to make this method the more clearly underſtood, I have annexed a Copper Plate, exhibiting the true manner of erecting ſuch a Frame as is ſuited to the Purpoſe, which, for the very trifling Expence of it, the Eaſe of its Conſtruction, and its agreeableneſs to the Plants, will be found preferable to any thing of the kind, which has hitherto been made Uſe of.

The preſent Way of raiſing PINE APPLES is made ſo chargeable by the erection of Hot-Houſes and the Conſumption of Fewel, that many, even of tolerable Fortune, have been deterred by the Conſideration of it, from raiſing this deſirable Fruit. It is further attended with Trouble and much uncertainty; and the Fruit itſelf rarely anſwers the Expence either in Size, Number or Quality. But by the Practice now recommended theſe ſeveral Inconveniencies are ſufficiently obviated. There are very few even of the Profeſſion of Gardeners on their own account, who are not able to accumulate the neceſſary Quantity of Horſe-Dung, which is the principal Article, for this valuable End. And by ſuch application of it, they ſhall not fail to find their Hopes abundantly anſwered, and their Labour well repaid.

The ANANAS or PINE APPLE is a Native of the hotter inland Parts of *Africa*, where it is ſaid to be very deſtructive to the Health of the Inhabitants, who devour it too eagerly. It grows alſo in ſeveral Parts of *South-America*, as in *Mexico* or *New Spain*, whence it found its Way to *Jamaica*, and our *Leward* Iſlands, and in the *Terra Firma*, particularly *Dutch Guiana*, whence it was introduced by that induſtrious People into *Europe*.

The Plant is now too well-known amongſt us to need a minute or botanical Deſcription; nor is it any Part of our Deſign to inveſtigate the medical Properties of it. It is ſufficient to remark that, as it is extremely grateful to the Palate, ſubacid and cooling, ſo when eaten with Moderation, it is not only harmleſs, but ſalutary.

There are no fewer than five Sorts of this Fruit cultivated in *Europe*, viz.

1. The Oval-Shaped Pine-Apple, with white Fleſh.
2. The Pyramidical Pine-Apple, with yellow Fleſh.
3. The ſmooth-leafed Pine.
4. The Pine with ſhining green Leaves: and
5. The Olive-coloured Pine.

Theſe are the ſorts generally cultivated in *Europe*. There are indeed many more, but none ſo valuable. And a great variety of ſorts hath been produced from Seeds: But this is a very tedious Proceſs, and, after much waſte of Pains and Patience, 'tis ten to one but the Fruit ſhall turn out ill-flavoured, and ungrateful to your Care.

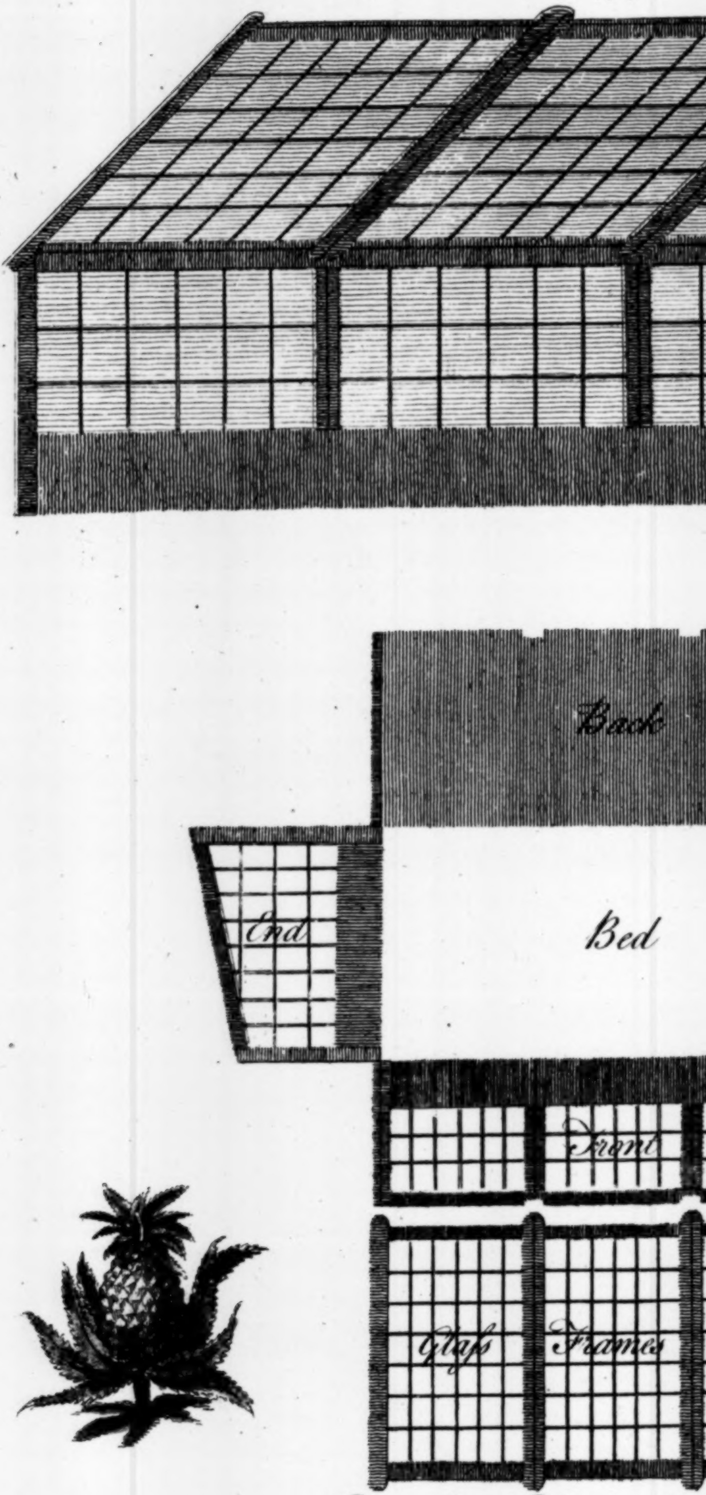
There are two principal ſorts raiſed amongſt us in *England*: 1. That which produces the Oval-Shaped Pine-Apple above-mentioned, which is commonly called the QUEEN-PINE: and 2. The ſtriped Sugar-loaf, or MONTSURAT-PINE, which is the ſecond of thoſe above ſpecified. This laſt mentioned ſort is greatly ſuperior to the other in Flavour, but does not often, by the uſual management, perfect its Fruit in Seaſon ſo well as the former.

Thoſe however, who ſhall be diſpoſed to make Uſe of the New Frame and method which I offer to their Trial, ſhall have no Room to make this complaint hereafter; as they ſhall be now enabled to produce it in every reſpect preferable to any that can be raiſed by Fire. This by a Compariſon of the Fruits will evidently appear.

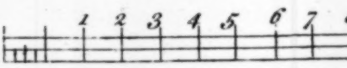
Before I proceed to the neceſſary Management of the Plants, it may be proper to treat of the Conſtruction of our NEW FRAME.

Firſt, ſink the Ground for your Foundation eighteen Inches deep, thirteen Feet ſix Inches in Length, and ſeven Feet ſix Inches wide: obſerving that the Front of your Frame is to face the South. In the next Place you are to build a nine-Inch Wall, every way, raiſing it three Feet and a half high. A Glaſs-Frame muſt be placed perpendicularly upon the Brick-work in Front. This muſt be two Feet ſix Inches high, and made in Saſhes for the conveniency of ſliding them backward and forward, to give Air or Water to the Plants, as ſhall be requiſite. Three Feet are allowed for the Depth of your Pit; the Bottom of which may be paved either with Brick or Stone. The Back-Part of the Frame ſhould be made with Deal Board an Inch thick, which you are to raiſe to the Height of four Feet above the Brick-work, or inſtead

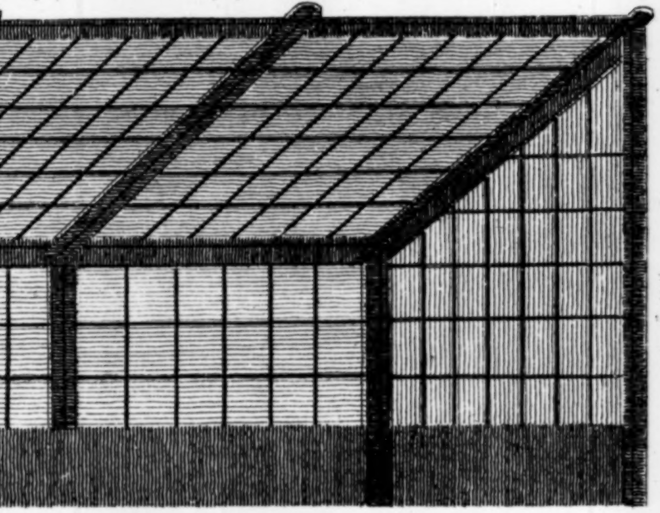
A View of Pi

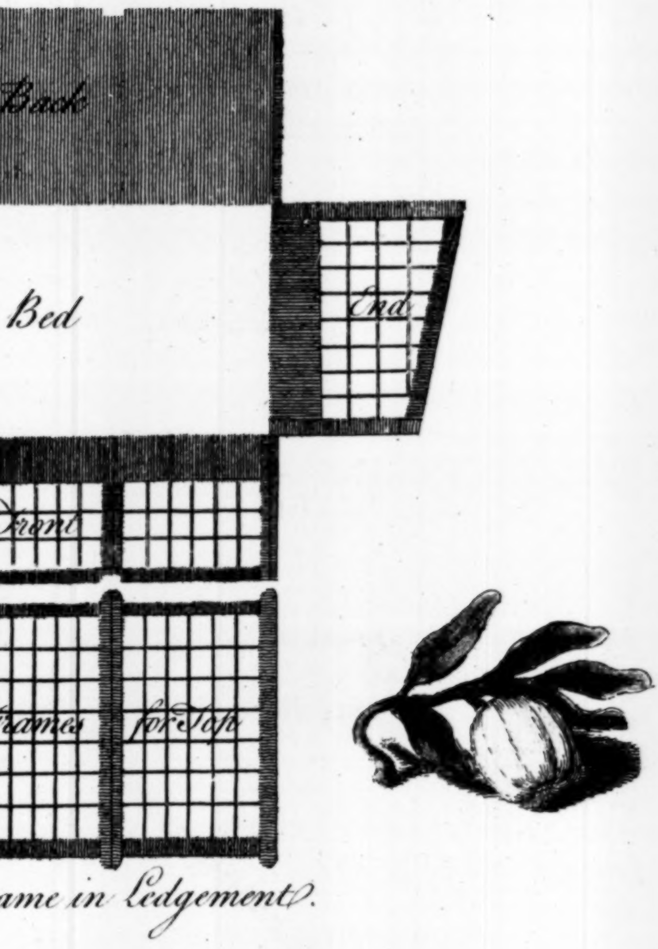


Pine Apple Frame in

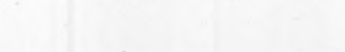


w of Pine Apple Frame.





ame in Ledgement.



ſtead of Brick-work, a moveable wood Frame will anſwer the ſame Purpoſe. The Ends of the Frame muſt be likewiſe raiſed with Saſhes of Glaſs above the Brick-work, made to ſlide like thoſe in front. And the whole muſt be covered at top with Glaſs-Frames to ſhove up and down. Thus, from the Summit of the Roof behind, to the Top of the upright Glaſs in front, there will be a Deſcent of one Foot and ſix Inches.

Or, it would anſwer, and with ſomewhat better convenience, if there was no Brick-work at all on the Back-Part of this Frame, but that whole Side, from the Bottom to the Top, was to conſiſt of Boards nailed to two ſtrong Poſts. By which means, when the Heat of the Dung or Tan, was abated in the Pit, it might quickly be renewed by putting a ſtrong Lining of Horſe-Dung on the out-ſide againſt the Back-Part of the Frame, and raiſing it higher or ſinking it lower, according to the Degree of Heat which the Plants may happen to require. A further Caution is neceſſary, that the Glaſſes muſt be every-where over-laid, and by no means puttyed at the

Bottom of the Panes. For a ſtrong Steam will naturally ariſe from the Heat of the Dung, which, if confined, would infallibly occaſion large Drops to hang upon the Glaſs. Theſe would frequently fall into the Hearts of the Plants and entirely ſpoil them. Nor is any thing ſo deſtructive to theſe tender Plants as an infected Air, which would be the immediate conſequence of ſuch Confinement.

It is alſo neceſſary, for the Conveniency of covering the glazed Roof of this Frame, to have a Sail-Cloth faſtened to a Roll, to let down and draw up, which is greatly preferable to any other Covering.

Further obſerve, that the fruiting Plants muſt be ſhifted, when they require a freſh Pit of Dung or Tan. They muſt all be removed from under this Frame: And it is very poſſible that this Work may become neceſſary, when the Severity of the Weather may not permit them to be expoſed, and you may not have the Coveniency of putting them under Shelter as they require. Hence is apparent the neceſſity of having another Pit, which I would recommend

5

mend to be made twenty-five Feet in Length, and to have it parted in the middle with Boards: So that when the Heat of one Pit is abated, the other may be ready to receive them. This ſpare Pit will be very ſerviceable for the purpoſe of raiſing many tender Plants. And if you fix a Board at the Back-Part and Sides, it will be better for your Succeſſion Plants which are produced from Crowns and Suckers, if covered with Lights in the ſame manner as your Melons and Cucumbers are; tho' I have brought my Succeſſion Plants to Perfection under my Cucumber Frames for many Years paſt. The whole Work may then without Difficulty be performed, if you have two Pits made according to the directions here given. And let your Frame be ſo contrived as to ſlide from one Pit to the other, which may eaſily be done.

This reſiduary Pit then, being full twelve Feet in Length and ſix Feet in Breadth, will hold thirty two fruiting Plants (that is) Four Rows, and eight in a Row; and may be made larger or ſmaller, according to the Number of fruiting Plants which you intend to have.

Having ſaid as much as is neceſſary concerning the Repoſitories adapted to your fruiting Plants; it will be proper to give ſome directions for preparing the Pit which is deſtined to receive them.

Firſt, provide Yourſelf with ſuch a Quantity of Dung, as will be ſufficient to fill your Pit within fourteen Inches of the Top of your Brick-work, when ſettled. But this Dung, before it is put into the Pit, ſhould be well worked together, in the ſame manner as is practiſed for your Cucumber Beds. It will thus heat more kindly andwith more Regularity, than when it is thrown in without mixing. This done, provide a ſufficient Quantity of Tanner's Bark to plunge your Pots in. But if your Situation is ſuch that Tanner's Bark cannot conveniently be had, you muſt get Saw-duſt in the Room of it, which will anſwer the ſame purpoſe: but then its Heat will abate much ſooner than the former, and thereby occaſion the Gardener the more Trouble. I do not therefore by any means recommend Saw-duſt, where Tanner's Bark may be had: Tan being ſo extremely uſeful and agreeable to the Plants by its moderate Heat, that it is abundantly the beſt, and will continue its Heat much longer than any Compoſt that I am yet acquainted with. I have indeed brought Pine-Apples to Perfection many Years with Horſe-Dung only, but have been obliged to ſhift them oftener than when Tan was uſed. I have alſo made Uſe of Tan for the Pit, and Horſe-Dung for the Lining on the Outſide of the Back-Part of my fruiting Frame with admirable Succeſs, the Fruit being vaſtly ſuperior both for Flavour and Magnitude to thoſe which are raiſed by the Stove.

Thoſe who are newly beginning to raiſe a Pinery with ſmall Plants, Crowns, or Suckers, have no need of any other Directions, nor can they raiſe them to Perfection any way ſo well as by the method before-mentioned. And when they have more Crowns and Suckers to ſucceed, it will be proper for them to have another Frame after the following Manner.

The Crowns and Suckers take up two Years before they perfect their Fruit. Therefore they will annually require ſeveral freſh Beds of Dung covered with Tan, to put the Pots in. This Frame then ſhould be ſix Feet wide. The Length muſt be in Proportion to the Fruiting-Frame, and made in the ſame manner as thoſe for Cucumbers, but ſtronger. It muſt be three Feet and ſix Inches deep at the Back, and two Feet ſix Inches deep in the Front. It muſt alſo be covered with Lights to ſlide, and the Glaſſes muſt be laid in Putty at the Sides, and placed in an imbricated manner, ſo as to lay over each other at the Ends, but muſt by no means be puttyed at the Bottom of the Panes. Thus the Vapours, which ariſe from the Fermentation of the Dung-Bed &c, will be diſſipated the more freely, and not drop into the Hearts of the Plants to their irreparable Injury, as have been already hinted. It is alſo neceſſary that they ſhould have a ſufficient ſhare of the Sun. If therefore a Border of Glaſs, to the Height of fifteen Inches, was fixed in the Fore-part of this Nurſery-Frame, it would be of ſingular Service to the Plants; whereas, if the perpendicular Front ſhould be compoſed entirely of Wood, they would be too much ſhaded. The Frame may be contrived of two or three lengths, according to the Number of Plants, which you intend to place in them. The true culture of the Plant comes next under our conſideration. Only obſerve that the Frame laſt ſpoken of, is to rear the young Plants in, (the fore-mentioned being intended for bringing the Fruit to Perfection;) and your own Experience, added to the directions already given, will ſufficiently inſtruct you ſo to order your Frame as to have Plenty of Room.

In the firſt Place, it behoves the Gardener to be careful in the choice of his Tanner's Bark, which ſhould neither be too large nor too ſmall. The firſt is apt to heat too violently, and the ſmaller Sort becomes Earth too ſoon and loſes its Fermentation. That which is of a moderate ſize therefore will beſt anſwer the End. When it comes firſt from the Tanners it is commonly wet and unfit for Uſe. Let it therefore be ſpread upon level Ground to dry for a Day or two, and after you have broken the knobs in pieces, caſt it in a heap ſomewhere under cover that it may be ſheltered from the Rain. There let it lay till it has acquired its proper warmth, before you venture to put your Plants into it.

But if the Plants are to be reared by the benefit of Horſe-Dung only, neither is it proper to put that into the Pit too wet; eſpecially in the Winter-Seaſon, when poſſibly it might occaſion a conſiderable damp, to the great detriment of the choice Plants on which your Hopes principally depend.

The next Point is, to be provided with a proper mould. Various ſorts have been made Uſe of; but that which I ſhall recommend, I have found by Experience preferable to any other, and to be the Compoſt which the Pine delights in. Of this it is proper to have as much at firſt as will ſerve you for two or three years: Since by laying together it will be much improved, and become abundantly more uſeful than it is when freſh-mixt.

Take one Load of mould from under the turf of a good Paſture, and, if it be very light, add to it the fourth Part of a Load of good mellow Loam: But, if it be itſelf of a loamy Nature, mix with it two or three Buſhels of Sea-Sand. Then take the fourth part of a Load of Dung from a Cow-Yard, if it can be thence procured; but if not, take the ſame quantity of good rotten Dung from your old Cucumber or Melon-Beds. Mix theſe well together, and turn the whole three or four times, that it may thoroughly imbibe the Air. All the large clods ſhould be well broken, but not ſifted or ſcreened as is the Practice with many; ſo ſhall you have a Compoſt which is excellently adapted to the Nouriſhment and Growth of the Plants.

The Pine-Plants require much Care and good management. With the ſmall ones we were formerly ſupplyed from abroad: But they are now produced in ſufficient Plenty amongſt Ourſelves. Theſe are either from Crowns or Suckers. The Crowns grow on the Top of the Fruit. The Suckers iſſue from between the lower part of the Leaves. By my method the Oval-fruited Pine will yield four or five Suckers, and the Sugar-loaf or *Montſurat* Pine five or ſix. It is not indeed common for them to produce ſo many when raiſed in Stoves. But the natural Heat of Dung has a better Effect, and promotes them with more ſucceſs than any other artificial Heat. Both Crowns and Suckers are to be taken off from the Parent Plant, when the Fruit is ripe, and not ſooner. The proper Seaſon is the Month of *Auguſt*, and they muſt be taken off with Care. The Suckers will be fit for planting two or three Days before the Crowns, and two or three of the Leaves ſhould be taken from the bottom of them. But the Crowns, which grow on the top, muſt be twiſted off, not cut, as is the way of ſome unſkilful Gardeners: For when the Crowns are cut, the wound ſeldom heals. This done, they ſhould be hung up in a dry Part of the Houſe for four or five Days before they are to be planted. But on ſome of y ur ſtools you will find Suckers which are of a brown colour at the bottom, and forming little knobs which are the Embrio's of future Roots. Theſe Suckers do not require to be dried ſo much as thoſe which appear to be greener. You have commonly the greateſt Quantity of Crowns and Suckers from the beginning of *Auguſt* to the middle of *September*. And the Crowns of thoſe Plants, which do not produce their Fruit till late in *September*, require to be dried more than thoſe before-mentioned. And if the Suckers of thoſe Plants, which produce their Fruit late, do not appear quite brown at the bottom, it is abſolutely neceſſary that you ſuffer them to remain upon the Stools till the *March* following. By purſuing this direction you will preſerve many late Plants, which would, if taken off ſooner, be entirely ſpoiled.

The next material Conſideration regards the proper manner of planting the Crowns and Suckers, after they have been ſufficiently dried.

In the firſt place pull a few Leaves from the bottom of each, where they are to ſtrike Root. This ſhould be done when they are firſt taken from the Mother-Plant, that the Wound may have Time to heal and dry up. For when theſe Leaves are pulled off but a little while before planting, the tender Plant is the more ſubject to rot. Theſe Crowns and Suckers, thus prepared, muſt be planted in ſmall Pots of a Halfpenny apiece: but if any of them are larger than ordinary, they will require Pots of ſomewhat a more capacious ſize, tho' in general the ſmall Pots are big enough. Theſe Pots at the Time of planting muſt be filled with the above Compoſt; taking previous Care that there be an Oyſter-Shell over the Hole at the bottom of each Pot, that the Earth may lay hollow and the Water paſs off freely. For without this precaution the Plants will rot. They muſt not be planted too deep: For if the Earth ſhould get between the Leaves, it would be detrimental to them. Neither ſhould they be planted too ſhallow; for ſo they would be liable to be diſplaced by watering or any thing elſe that might lightly touch them. So that Diſcretion in this Article will be your beſt guide.

The Plants being thus potted, they muſt be plunged into the Bed of your Nurſery Frame, obſerving that the Bed be of a moderate Heat, and placing them up to the Rim in the Bark. This ſhould be done with a crooked Fork fixt in a ſhort handle. In plunging in the Pots you muſt not preſs them down too hard, leſt, when the Bed is ſettled, your Plants ſhould ſtand irregularly. They ſhould be properly arranged according to their different heights, the largeſt being placed next to the Back-Part of the Frame, and the ſmaller in Front: For thus diſpoſed they will the more eaſily receive the benefit of the Sun. You ſhould then give them a gentle watering, and, if the Weather be very hot, ſhade them in the Heat of the Day, till they are firmly rooted. And indeed this ſhading will be very neceſſary afterwards, ſo long as the Days continue hot; otherwiſe the Heat of the Sun through the Glaſſes would ſcorch the Leaves of the Plants, and burn up the Mould in which they are planted. When once they have ſtruck Root, they ſhould have ſome freſh Air every Day, and ſhould have it moſt, when the Days are hot, and the Wind quiet. For if they are kept too cloſe, and drawn up weak at this Seaſon, they will ſuffer greatly in the enſuing Winter. By all means therefore be perſuaded to give Air to theſe young Plants at all times whenever the Weather will permit. Take notice that the Plants in this Frame will require but little Water in the Winter Seaſon. And when the froſty Weather comes on and the Heat of your Bed abates, it will be then proper to add a lining of Horſe-Dung in the ſame manner that you renew the Heat in your Cucumber Beds.

With this management two good Beds, will be ſufficient to carry your Plants through the Winter, if they are well lined. It is alſo proper for the outſide linings of theſe Beds to be covered with Straw or Fern: By which means the Dung will retain its Heat the longer. This will alſo prevent the Froſt from penetrating your Frame, if it be raiſed high enough. It is alſo requiſite to have Mats or ſome other convenient covering, to hinder the Froſt from getting through your Lights: And if great Steams ſhould then ariſe from the Bed, it will be proper to give them a little Air by tilting the Lights up a little that it may paſs off; though theſe Plants will bear more Steam, without damage, than either Cucumbers or Melons.

The greateſt Care which theſe Plants require, is, that they be kept from the Froſt and from too much wet in the Winter Seaſon. Above all things, it behoves you not to be too eager or forward in promoting their growth at that Time, when nothing can be ſo prejudicial to them as their ſhooting too faſt. For if once they draw up with long Leaves and appear white at Heart, which are the conſequences of a forward growth in Winter, it is over. For this is not the real Fruit, nor will they ever acquire the ſize, or the Flavour which is proper to it. Yet this is an Evil, which thoſe who pretend to raiſe this Fruit, are very apt to give way to. They are mightily pleaſed if they can but keep their Plants in a growing condition, whether it be the proper Seaſon for it or not, till at laſt they find themſelves diſappointed by the ſanguineneſs of their own hopes, and loſt in their own Security. Be careful then not to make your Beds too ſtrong from the middle of *September* to the middle of *March*. For it is no matter how little the Plants grow during the Winter. The Gardener ought to be well ſatisfied if then he can but prevent them from rotting and keep them of a good Colour.

Having then with Care preſerved your Plants till the beginning of *March* by the directions already given, they ſhould now be taken more particular Care of. The Weather of this Month is very changeable and frequently ſevere. Its tranſitions or changes alſo are apt to be ſo ſudden as to require a diligent attendance on the Plants; that they may not be prejudiced by the Cold, or too much expoſed to the Sun, but gradually inured to Air and moderate Heat.

About the beginning of *April* (a few Days ſooner or later, as the Seaſon may permit) it will be proper to ſhift your young Plants into ſomewhat larger Pots, for the Pots cannot in reaſon be too ſmall. Obſerve at the ſame Time the caution already given, that the Pots made Uſe of, have all holes at the bottom covered with Oyſter-Shells. Your Pots and Mould then being ready, turn out the young Plants gently, and be careful to keep the Earth around the Roots. Then put a little freſh Mould into the bottom, and, having placed your Plant upon it, fill up all the hollow Parts with the ſame freſh Compoſt. While you are about this Work, examine the ſeveral Roots very particularly, and, if any of them ſeem periſhed, the old Mould muſt be cleared away and the decayed Roots cut off. All Leaves, which are not alive, muſt be ſtripped off (not cut) at the ſame Time. This will make room for the new Fibres to ſtrike freely. And let not the freſh Earth from the Compoſt, with which you fill the Pots, be too wet. The Plants being thus ſhifted, you ſhould have a freſh Bed ready to receive them, made with Dung and covered with Tan. In this Bed, place the Plants in order as before, the talleſt at the back Part of the Frame, and the ſhorteſt in Front.

As ſoon as the Plants receive the benefit of the Heat of this New Bed, and the Weather is mild, it will be proper to water them all over the Tops. This will waſh away the Filth, ſettle the Plants to the Earth, and greatly promote their Growth. Continue to cover them lightly at Nights, and to give them Air in the Day-Time, whenſoever the Weather permits. For it is with theſe, as with the Animal World: If they are too cloſely confined, they will become tender and feeble, and the leſs capable of producing Fruit in Perfection. In the ſpace of three or four Weeks the Heat of this Bed will be conſiderably abated. It muſt then be renewed by a lining of freſh Dung. For though it does not ſignify how little your Plants grow in the Winter ſo they do but ſtir at all, yet it muſt be a principal part of your Care to encourage and forward the growth of them, from the Month of *April* to *September*; which is their natural growing Seaſon.

Warm ſhowers of of Rain are not uncommon in the Months of *April* and *May.* The Glaſſes may then be taken quite off, that the Plants may have the benefit of it. Only be careful to do this with Diſcretion, for they muſt not have too much: And yet they will very ſoon have too much, if the ſtrength of your Bed be abating. But if the Heat of it be ſtrong, you need not be afraid to indulge them with a good watering. When it is over, put on the Lights again, ſhutting them down cloſe; and remember always to let them be ſhaded after every watering, more eſpecially if the Sun ſhould ſhine out hot. For this will occaſion a fine Dew to appear upon the Leaves of the Plants, which will be very ſerviceable to them.

What Water is given them occaſionally from *September* to *June*, muſt be in the Morning and ſparingly; and during the hot Months of *June*, *July* and *Auguſt*, in the Evenings; that the Heat of the Sun may have no opportunity of drying them before they ſhall have received the intended benefit of the watering. The Water made uſe of on theſe Occaſions ſhould be ſoſt; and Rain-Water, which is the ſofteſt, ſhould be preſerved for this purpoſe: And it ſhould have a degree of warmth proportioned to that of the Air within the Frame, and be ſprinkled from a fine-noſed Pot.

About the Middle of *July*, is the proper Seaſon for ſhifting your Succeſſion Plants again into Pots, which are a ſize larger. In the execution of this work, after you have turned out your Plants, it will be neceſſary to take off ſome of the outſide Mould, and trim off ſome of the Roots. I would be underſtood to mean thoſe Roots only which have reached the outſide of the Pot. Put ſome freſh Mould at the bottom of the new Pot, to raiſe your Plant to its proper Height, then fill the Pot with the Earth which you have prepared for that purpoſe. Theſe Pots are then to be plunged into your freſh Bed of Dung covered with Tan. Be ſure to let them have plenty of room; to give them ſometimes gentle Refreſhments of Water, and to let them have a due portion of freſh Air. This will make your Plants ſtrong, and diſpoſe them to produce good Fruit in the following Year. But if they are kept too cloſe at this Time, they will be drawn up weak; and ſometimes there will be danger of their being driven unſeaſonably into Fruit in the Winter.

Towards the end of *Auguſt*, when the Nights begin to be cold, the Glaſſes muſt be ſhut down cloſe. But then it will be neceſſary to let them have ſome Air in the Day-Time, when proper opportunities ſhall offer. And be particularly careful not to let them have too much Water at this Time.

About the end of *September* your Succeſſion Plants will be nearly full grown. It will be then expedient for you with all diligence to get ready the Pit in the fruiting Frame for their reception. If for the purpoſe you make uſe of Dung covered with Tan, it muſt be put into the Pit a few Days before you plunge your Pots of Plants in it; but if you intend to fill it entirely with Tan, it muſt be put in, a full Week before you venture your Plants in it. In that Time the bed will have obtained the due degree of heat by Fermentation, and will be rendered fit for the reception of them. In plunging theſe Plants, be ſtill adviſed to place them with order and regularity, which will add greatly to the beauty of them when they come to be ripe. As ſoon as the Bed ſhall have imparted a proper warmth to the Mould in the Pots, your next buſineſs will be to water them lightly over their Leaves, which will be a conſiderable refreſhment to them, and ſettle the Mould to their Roots.

If this Bed be made entirely of Tan, the Plants may remain in it till the middle of *February*; but if it be compoſed of Dung covered with Tan, they will require another freſh Bed about the middle of *December*. Then to have the two Pits with the moveable Frame in readineſs will be very convenient for replunging of your Pots without their receiving any Check. It is the practice of many Perſons to take their Plants out of the Stove about Chriſtmas-Time and to ſettle them under Frames in a cold Bed for three or four Days, profeſſedly with a deſign to check them: They afterwards plunge them again in the Stove, and this occaſions them to form their Fruit. But this is by no means adviſeable. It is an unnatural extreme, and of courſe prejudicial to the Plant, and will therefore be avoided by thoſe who aim at the poſſeſſion of large and well flavoured Fruit.

You muſt be careful to cover the Frame with a Sail-Cloth during the Winter Seaſon, as you have been already directed. Another Caution, laid before you in the beginning of this Treatiſe, is that, as ſoon as you perceive that the Heat of the Dung or Tan is abated, you begin to line the Back-Part of the Frame on the outſide with Dung. This lining ſhould be laid three or four Feet wide at the bottom, and be made ſloping from the Top, that the wet may paſs off well without ſoaking into the Frame. Neither ſhould it be raiſed to its full Height at firſt, but by little at a time as the Froſts increaſe, till at laſt it becomes as high as the Back-

Part of the Frame itſelf. By thus adding freſh Dung to the former, at convenient diſtances of Time, as the ſeverity of the Weather ſhall demand, it will maintain its Heat much longer, than if the whole Quantity was to be heaped up at once, and will ſtrike a nouriſhing warmth to the Plants through the Back-Part of the Frame. This is much preferable to the Heat which is communicated by Fire, and the Plants thus managed require leſs Water during the Winter-Seaſon, than thoſe which are raiſed by means of the Stove.

For the better conveniency of watering the Plants in this Frame, you ſhould be furniſhed with a Tin-Pipe about five Feet in length. By means of this you will be enabled to reach the Pots which are placed at the Back Part of the Frame, without breaking or injuring the Leaves of thoſe which ſtand in Front. The large end of this Pipe ſhould be three Inches and a half in Diameter, and half an Inch at the ſmall End, and ſhould be turned in the ſame manner as the Bole of a common Tobacco-Pipe is, that the Water may gradually run upon them. This Pipe is preferable for Uſe in the Winter-Seaſon to any Watering-Pot that can be made for the purpoſe.

Having by theſe directions preſerved your Plants to the middle of *February*, they ſhould now be ſhifted into Pots about nine Inches deep, and ten Inches in Diameter. This is the proper ſize of the Pots in which they ſhould be planted to produce Fruit. But obſerve that, at this Time of ſhifting them, no Mould muſt be taken off, nor muſt any of the Roots be diſturbed at all, but they muſt immediately be ſet in with Care, filling the Pots with freſh Mould, as before directed.

If your Bed be made entirely of Tan, you ſhould now add a little freſh Tan to it, mixing the old and the new well together before you plunge your Pots in it. But if the Pit be filled with Dung, the ſpare Pit muſt be prepared to receive them, as is before directed; and the lining muſt be taken from the Back-Part of the Frame: And when the Pots are plunged you muſt move the Frame over them again, and then begin to make a freſh lining at the Back-Part, agreeably to the Rule juſt now laid down.

If theſe Plants are carefully managed in this manner during the Winter-Seaſon, they will begin to ſhew their Fruit about the middle of *March*. And if any of them ſhould happen to ſhew Fruit earlier, they muſt not be ſhifted after the firſt appearance of it. For this cannot be done without checking them greatly; the natural Conſequence of which will be, that the Fruit will be long in ripening and at laſt ſmall, and but indifferently flavoured.

When the Fruit appears in the hearts of theſe Plants, you ſhould be careful not to water them over the Leaves, more eſpecially when they are in Bloom. For it will prevent ſeveral of their Tubercles from ſwelling: And this will render the Fruit unſightly. But when the Bloſſoms are gone off, you may without danger venture to water them all over. As the Fruit advances in magnitude, be ſure to keep a good Heat, by applying freſh Dung to the Back-Part of the Frame. Let this be your principal regard; for the Beauty, ſize and exquiſite flavour of the PINE-APPLE chiefly depend upon the Freedom of its growth after the Fruit appears. Encourage this therefore by frequent refreſhments of Water, and by giving them Air as often as the Weather will permit.

You will eaſily perceive when the Fruit is ripe, by the beautiful yellowneſs of its Colour, and the grateful Perfume of its Effluvia. It ſhould be cut in the Morning before the Sun ſhines upon it and laid in a cool Place. The Suckers ſhould now be taken off, if they appear brown at the bottom, and the leaves trimmed off from the Mother-Plant, which ſhould be plunged into a moderate Hot-Bed. If you are careful to refreſh theſe frequently with Water, they will produce more Suckers; ſo that you may very ſoon have plenty of them, if you are diſpoſed to preſerve the old Stools. Some Perſons indeed raiſe objections againſt thoſe Suckers that are produced near the Roots, and call them contemptuouſly *under-ground Suckers.* But I have experienced them to be as good, and have produced as fine Fruit from them, as from any other Plants.

By diligently attending to theſe directions which are founded upon large Experience, you will have but few Plants out of Seaſon or producing ſmall Fruit. Towards the end of *September* your fruiting Frame will be almoſt clear. Therefore, if you made uſe of Tan only for the Pit, it ſhould now be ſkreened, that the ſmaller Parts of it may be ſeparated from the greater. Theſe however have both of them their reſpective Uſes. The larger ſhould be ſpread of an equal thickneſs all over the Pit. You ſhould then have a ſufficient quantity of new Tan to raiſe the Bed with, to its proper height, mixing it well together. This with the lining will maintain a moderate heat for five or ſix Months. The ſmaller parts will be ſerviceable to cover the Dung-Beds with, wherein you are tō raiſe your Succeſſion Plants.

Having gone through the whole proceſs of the Pine-Apple, from the management of the Crowns and Suckers to the ripening of the Fruit; it remains that proper Notice be taken of the white Inſects which are found about the PINE, and which are always injurious if but a little neglected, and frequently deſtructive to the Plants.

These Inſects are not ſo common to be met with upon PINES which are managed according to the directions here laid down, as they are upon ſuch as are raiſed in Stoves. The cauſes of them are variouſly aſſigned. Very often they are brought with the young Plants from abroad. By ſome they are imputed to the bad ſtate of Health, and by others to the uncleanlineſs of the Plants; and to the laſt of theſe perhaps the firſt is owing: But from continued obſervation I have reaſon to conclude that they are principally occaſioned by the dry Air, which is owing to the heat of the Fire in the Stove. Theſe Vermin breed ſo faſt, that if proper meaſures are not taken for their immediate deſtruction, they will quickly ſpread over the whole Stove of Plants. As they are aſcribed to ſeveral cauſes, ſo are ſeveral methods propoſed for the Abolition of them. The Compilers of *the Gardener's New Kalendar*, (page 215) recomend "the Uſe of a ſpunge and "warm water, and if the diſorder be great, the "Water muſt be impregnated with Tobacco-Stalks "and Soot. Every Part (ſay they) muſt be "cleanſed with this; the young Shoots and Leaves "with the Spunge, and the Stems with a ſmall "Bruſh, and afterwards with a Flannel dipped in "the ſame Water." But this, and ſteeping, is the very method preſcribed by *Mr. Millar* in his *Gardeners Dictionary*, and which is ſo much condemned by *Mr. Barnes's* Letter, inſerted towards the end of the ſame compilation. His advice is, if the Plants be attacked either in Winter or Summer; to examine their Roots, and if they have filled the Pots, to give them ſuch as are a ſize larger: To ſtir up the Bark and add a good quantity, though not above half, of new: If it be Summer, to keep the Earth in the Pots in a middling degree for moiſtneſs, by ſprinkling the Plants all over with a Pot that has a

Noſe on it: If it be Winter, the Water is to be given them with a ſpout, not letting any come on their Leaves. Others inſtruct you to ſpread Sulphur and Tobacco-Duſt over them. But every one of theſe methods has a bad effect upon the Plants, obſtructing the growth of them, and making the Fruit ill-flavoured. That theſe pernicious conſequences may be avoided for the future, I ſhall here lay down certain and effectual means for the deſtruction of theſe Vermin without injuring the Plants.

Theſe Inſects at their firſt coming, look like Mildew on the Plants, and ſoon after take the appearance of Lice. Every Plant which you perceive to be attacked by them, ſhould be immediately taken out of the Frame and plunged into a moderate Hot-Bed made of Dung. This Hot-Bed ſhould be covered with one or two Cucumber Frames adapted to the height of the Plants. Let theſe Frames be covered with Lights; ſo as to confine the ſteam of the Dung. As ſoon as the Plants receive the heat of this Bed, water them all over the tops of the Leaves with cold Water. This will effectually deſtroy the Inſects, after which the Plants are to be reſtored to the covered Frame again. A Trial or two of this, will convince any Perſon of the infallible Efficacy of it.

Thus have I laid before the Reader, plain and eaſy Directions for raiſing of this valuable Fruit without Fire, ſuch as are confidently recommended to the public Notice, being found effectual in my own Practice, and the reſult of long Experience.

OF THE
CULTURE,
OF THE
MELON.

NEXT to the PINE-APPLE for Deliciouſneſs of Taſte and Flavour is the MELON. There is a great variety in this Fruit, not only with reſpect to the colour of the Rind and Pulp, the Taſte and Smell, but alſo in its oblong Figure, ſextile Diſpoſition, and other Accidents. The Fleſh is pleaſant and grateful to the Stomach: But Botaniſts differ much as to the Qualities of this Fruit. *Dodonæus* and after him, *Ray* affirms that MELONS are more difficult of Concoction than Cucumbers. But *J. Bauhine* is of quite a different Opinion, becauſe of the ſweet-ſcented Pulp, and for that he himſelf, who laboured under a cold and phlegmatic Stomach, had found by Experience more than once, the Inconvenience of eating Cucumbers, that they were difficult of Concoction to the Stomach, and excited Eructations ſavouring of them a long time after eating them; whereas he always ate Melons without any manifeſt Inconvenience. The Pulp of the MELON too is ſaid to be cold; but the Hiſtory of Plants, aſcribed to *Boerhaave*, roundly aſſerts the contrary, affirming that its taſte and ſmell indicate an aromatic Quality, and prove it an aromatic Plant: For if eaten to exceſs, they excite bloody Urine; wherefore, ſays he, it is of an heating Quality, and there is ſcarce any thing in Nature more ſtimulative to Venery than this Fruit. But to prevent it from putrifying in the Stomach, it will be proper to eat it with Salt and Pepper, or, which is much more agreeable, with a tolerable Quantity of grated Ginger mixt with Sugar, and to drink plentifully of Wine afterwards.

Many Authors have given directions for the culture of the MELON; but all of them ſeem deficient in ſome reſpect or other. I ſhall therefore lay before the Reader ſuch Inſtructions for this purpoſe, as I have found neceſſary and effectuall by repeated trials and long Experience.

We receive Seeds every Year from *France*, *Spain*, *Italy*, and ſome Parts of the *Weſt-Indies*, as well as from its native Soil of *Perſia*, from which it was firſt introduced into *Europe*. But I would by no means adviſe thoſe, who are deſirous of good Fruit, to depend altogether upon the Seeds which are imported from abroad; but rather to procure it from good Melons, which are raiſed at home. For thoſe which are imported from hot Countries, not having been inured to our Climate, are more liable to ſuffer from the ſeverity of the Weather, notwithſtanding all our Care and Caution; and rarely produce firm well taſted and high flavoured Fruit, on which the Gardener's Profit and Reputation wholly depend.

There are ſeven Species of the MELON; but only two which are truly valuable. The *Romana* is an excellent ſort for the firſt Crop. But of all the various ſorts, which are raiſed in *England*, the Cantaleupe, tho' ſomewhat more tender than the *Romana*, is the beſt-flavoured.

When the Seed is taken from the Fruit, it ſhould be laid in the Sun and well-dried; after which it ſhould be put into a Phial and cloſe corked, and then ſet in a Place which is expoſed to the Sun. Thus the watry Part will be ſoon dried up, and they will be as good, as if they had been kept elſewhere in Paper for two or three Years. Many Perſons take another, and not improper method, drying the watry Parts from the Seeds by hanging them near a Fire for three or four Weeks. Others carry them in their Pockets for ſome time before they ſow them. Either of theſe Ways will do tolerably well, and anſwer the intent of making new Seed as fit for ſowing as the old. The Seeds, having the watry Part thus dried up, will produce more Fruit than otherwiſe they would; nor be ſubject to that Luxuriency, which is the uſual Conſequence of undried Seeds.

Our next Care muſt be, to give directions for providing a proper Dung-Bed, wherein the Seeds are to be depoſited for the firſt Crop.

In the Month of *January*, let the Gardener provide himſelf with a Quantity of new Horſe-Dung, proportioned to the Number of Plants which he intends to raiſe. This Dung ſhould be thrown up in a heap.

This direction is given upon a ſuppoſition that old Horſe-Dung, which is much preferable, is not to be had. And this new Dung will be the better for having a large Quantity of Straw or Litter amongſt it. A Load of this is ſufficient for a Hot-bed with one Light. It ſhould be ſuffered to lay for a Week, and come to its proper Heat, before you make your Bed.

The Dung being now in order, lay your Light upon the plain ſurface of the Ground, (for there muſt be no Trench), and draw a line all round, cloſe to the outſide of the Frame. Then mark another Line at the diſtance of eight Inches every way from the former. This laſt is to be the exact compaſs of your Dung-Bed. Let the longeſt part of the Litter be ſpread firſt upon the Ground; ſtill obſerve this rule as you riſe, till you have ſcarce any thing but clean Dung left for the top. Thus raiſe it to the height of about four Feet ſix Inches, that when ſettled, it may be nearly three Feet thick. It will then be of courſe eight Inches wider than the outſide of the Frame. Let the top of the Bed on the inſide of the Frame be covered with Cow-Dung about two Inches thick. This will preſerve the mould from being burned by the violent heat of the Dung, which often happens, and when it does, it proves very deſtructive to the Plants.

When the Bed is thus far prepared, put on the Frame and cover it with the Lights. It may be uſefull to thruſt a ſtick into it, which, being now and then pulled out, will ſhew the condition of the Bed. However, in a weeks time, or leſs, the vehemence of the heat will be pretty well over; when the Bed muſt be covered with freſh light Earth, taking care that it be not too wet when it is laid on. Let this be diſpoſed ſmooth and even all over the top of the Bed, and about ſix Inches thick. Give it a little Air now and then to let off the ſteam.

When the Earth is become warm by the heat of the Bed, then is the time to put in your Seeds, covering them about half an Inch deep.

When the Seeds are up, and the Leaf is fully expanded, and the rough leaf begins to make its appearance, which will be in about ſeven or eight days after ſowing, you ſhould then be provided with another Quantity of Dung, in order to make a ſecond Bed for the reception of theſe Plants. This Dung ſhould be well mixed together, and thrown up in a heap, as the ſormer and ſuffered to lay ſo for ſix or ſeven Days, till the rank Quality of it ſhall have paſſed off. If it ſhould be dry and full of long Litter, throw a few Pails of Water over it; which will cauſe it to ferment, and keep it from burning. This ſecond bed muſt be made of the ſame thickneſs as the firſt, and of a length proportioned to the number of Plants which it is intended to contain. The ſurface of it muſt be covered over with Cow-Dung, as was before directed for the Seed-Bed. Then put on the Frame and Lights; and in two Days after the Bed is made, cover it with old Tan or light Earth about eight Inches thick.

On the next Day the Bed will be fit for the reception of the Plants, if the Dung has been properly worked up.

When the Plants in the Seed-Bed have one ſmall rough leaf, it will then be proper to take them out with Care and place them in Pots about ſeven Inches wide and five Inches deep, filled with good rich Earth, placing two Plants in each Pot, after having ſecured the holes at the Bottom. Then plunge them up to the rim in the new Bed. But obſerve, if the Weather ſhould chance to be clear and the Sun ſhine warm, then they muſt be ſhaded, till they have taken freſh Root. And, if the mould ſhould appear dry, it will be proper to give them a little Water, but ſparingly at this Seaſon. It will be alſo neceſſary to cover them with Mats or Straw that they may not be chilled at Nights, and to give them Air in proportion to the heat of the Bed in the Day-time, when the Weather will admit of it, that the Steam may paſs off, and the Plants gather ſtrength. For the natural Conſequence of too cloſe confinement is, that the Plants will be drawn up weak and the Leaves turn yellow.

If the heat of this laſt Bed ſhould abate, and the Weather prove ſevere, a freſh lining of Horſe-Dung muſt be added. But be careful to prevent the ſteam of it from getting into the Bed, which

would

the neceſſary allowance for the Time of the Dung's working, and the Beds coming to a proper Heat; that the Plants may not, when they are arrived at this pitch, wait for the Bed. If the Soil, where you make your Bed be very dry, you may now dig a Trench about twelve or fourteen Inches deep, anſwering to the length and breadth of your Frame; otherwiſe it is always beſt to make it on the plain ſurface of the Ground. You are to make this Bed two Feet wider than the Frame, mixing the long and ſhort Dung well together, that it may Heat regularly. Let the back part be raiſed half a Foot higher than the Front. This will give the Glaſs a greater Slope to the Sun, and the Plants will receive the Benefit of it. This Bed muſt alſo be covered with Cow-Dung, as was directed for the others, and afterwards with Mould, about three Inches thick, all over the Surface.

Three Days after the Bed is made, you are to put about three Pecks of good Earth under the Centre of each Light, raiſing it into a ſort of an

Hillock, with a deſcent ſlope around. Then put on the Lights, tilting each Light with a notched Stick, that the Steam of the Bed may paſs off. In about two Days the Earth will be thoroughly warm. Then carefully turn the Plants out of the Pots, having firſt watered them, that the Earth may not fall from the Roots, and put two Plants on each Hillock; without diſturbing the ball of Earth which is about their Roots. If the Mould ſhould appear dry, give them a little Water; but not till you have taken off the chill from it, by ſetting it on the Dung a few Hours before it is wanted for uſe. Neither let it be too warm: For that would prove as hurtful to the Plants as the contrary Quality. If the Sun ſhould ſhine out, ſhade them till they have taken freſh Root. But if the Weather prove cold and foggy while the Plants are young, tilt up the Lights according to the Heat of the Bed; and hang a Mat gently over that part of the Light which is tilted, that the Plants may at the ſame time receive a moderate ſhare of Air, and the Steam paſs off without injury. For if the cold Air is too freely admitted at this Seaſon, it will frequently deſtroy the Plants: And if the Lights are kept too cloſe and the Steam confined, the danger will be equal. For the Plants will imbibe an infected air and ſoon ſhew their ſickneſs by the yellowneſs of their appearance.

As the Runners advance, obſerve to diſpoſe them with regularity, that they may not croſs or be entangled one with another. And as they proceed in Length, encourage the Roots by adding ſome freſh Earth around the Hillock on which the Plants are placed. But in doing this, be very careful not to bruiſe the Runners, or bury any of their Leaves. Let the Gardener obſerve particularly, not to lay this freſh Earth ſo high as the Top or Summit of the Hillock or Eminence before-mentioned, by two Inches or thereabout, that the Main Stem may be kept dry; otherwiſe being watered, would ſoak to this principal part, and cauſe it to rot. And let it be underſtood that this Mould is not to be laid on all at once, but at different times, as occaſion may require. This will greatly encourage the Fibres and promote the growth of the Plants, and will ſufficiently recompence the Gardener for his Trouble, who is deſirous of having his MELONS excellent and of rich Flavour.

When the young Fruit begin to appear upon the Runners, forbear to water them, till they are grown to the ſize of a Walnut, unleſs the Mould ſhould be very dry indeed; and then let them have it but ſparingly. For a little too much Water at this Time when the Fruit is ſetting, will cauſe the Branches to ſhoot with great Luxuriency, and the young MELONS will be apt to drop off. For the Deſtruction of the Fruit is generally owing to the exurberant quantity of Sap which the Branches contain.

At the firſt appearance of the young Fruit, you will perceive abundance of Male Bloſſoms. I have ſeen many unexperienced Perſons pick off theſe to the manifeſt prejudice of the Crop. For theſe falſe Bloſſoms (as they are too Commonly ſo called) are abſolutely neceſſary for the Impregnation of the Ovary of the fruitful Plants. And when the Female is deprived of the Farina of the Male Bloſſoms, which is as neceſſary to the Generation of Plants, as the Seed of Animals is to the Propagation of their reſpective Species, your expectation muſt fail of Courſe.

When the Bloſſoms are all over, and the Fruit advances in Magnitude, lay a piece of Glaſs or Tyle under each MELON, to keep it from the Earth. And, if the Weather ſhould prove mild give them a good Watering. This will cauſe them to ſwell apace. And freſh Air ſhould be admitted at all opportunities when the Weather is fine.

Should you find the Heat of the Bed to abate and decline, add a freſh Lining of new Dung, as before directed. And it may be requiſite to repeat this two or three times. For the Fruit will be ſurpriſingly forwarded in a little Time by keeping up a proper Warmth. And when it is about three parts grown, turn it every four or five Days; that each part may receive equally the Benefit of the Sun. And remember, that when it is full grown, it muſt not be watered. For that would conſiderably retard its Ripening, and in a great Meaſure rob it of the Richneſs of its Flavour.

Many eminent Gardeners have a Cuſtom, (and by no means a bad one) of placing the Fruit when it is full grown, upon Bricks. This has ſome good Effects. For it raiſes them above the Leaves, whereby they are fully expoſed to the Sun and Air, and the Stems are ſecured from rotting.

When the MELON begins to turn yellow, and to crack at the part which is affixt to the Stalk and to diffuſe a fine Smell, it is then ripe and fit for cutting. For if it be ſuffered to remain on the Vine a Day or two after theſe appearances, it will loſe much of its Flavour. Let it be cut in the Morning before the Sun ſhines upon it, and kept in a cool place, till it is wanted for the Table.

This is the whole management for your firſt Crop of MELONS, from the ſowing of the Seed to the maturity of the Fruit. And your obſervance of the Rules laid down for it, will ſufficiently compenſate your Attention to them. But it is neceſſary that I ſhould give ſome further Directions for raiſing the late Crops.

The Place where theſe Plants are to be raiſed, ſhould be well expoſed to the Sun, and encloſed with Reed Hedges, Mudwalls or Pales, to break off the violence of the Wind. And the Frames wherein the Plants are to produce their Fruit, ſhould be larger than thoſe which are made Uſe of for the raiſing of Cucumbers. The ſize of a Two-Light MELON-Frame, ſhould be ſeven Feet and an half long, and four Feet and an half wide; and a Three-Light one in proportion. The beſt Compoſt for your Plant is the following, viz. Take one Load of loamy Earth from under the Turf of a good Paſture, half that quantity of good old Cow-Dung, and three Wheel-Barrows full of rotten Dung from the old Cucumber or Melon Beds. Mix theſe well together by ſtirring, and then throw the whole up in a Ridge to receive the Air. This ſhould be prepared three or four Months before it is uſed. The large Clods ſhould be well broken, but it muſt not be ſcreened or ſifted. If Cucumbers are to be raiſed in the ſame Ground, it will be neceſſary to make a Diviſion with a Reed-Hedge, Mudwall, &c, running North and South: For they are apt to degenerate, when raiſed together. Nor, for either purpoſe, ſhould you tread or beat the Beds cloſe; but let them ſettle of themſelves. For this will prolong the Fermentation of them, and they will be the leſs ſubject to burn. I have found by Experience that the mixing of Coal-Aſhes with the Dung will prevent the free penetration of the Air and frequently ruin the beſt Crops. The frequent ſtopping of the Runners will alſo occaſion a great Number of weak Shoots and a ſtrange confuſion of Vine, and the ſmall Fruit will turn yellow and drop off. They ſhould not be ſtopped or cut, till the Fruit is as big as an Egg. Then ſtop them two joints beyond the Fruit.

For the convenience of watering the Plants, without wetting the Leaves or Fruit, place a Garden-Pot, with a ſmall Hole at the Bottom, among the Leaves and at ſome diſtance from the principal Stem. Put a little Hay or Graſs at the Bottom of it, that the Water may not paſs through too freely to waſh the Mould from the Roots: Removing the Pot diſcretionally to any part of the Bed which may require Water. For this is abundantly better than making a Drill, as is the common Practice, around the inſide of the Bed.

Some Perſons raiſe their principal Crop of MELONS under Bell or Hand-Glaſſes, and oiled Paper: For which the following particular Directions are neceſſary.

About the third or fourth of *March*, prepare the Dung as before directed for the Plants raiſed under Lights. Sow your Seed about the twelfth of the ſame

Month. And when they have one ſmall rough Leaf, plunge them in ſmall Pots in a freſh Bed; where they are to remain till the Beginning of *April*. Then the Dung muſt be got in readineſs by mixing and preparing it, as before directed, in a heap to ferment; and the Ground muſt be got ready, where the Ridges are to be made, by ſtraining a Line and digging a Trench three Feet wide and ſix Inches deep, and leaving a Space of ſeven Feet between each Trench. The Length muſt of courſe be proportioned to the number of Glaſſes, which you intend to have in each Row; which muſt be full ſix Feet apart. Then wheel your Dung into the Trench, allowing eight Barrows of Dung to each Hole.

Your Dung Bed being made ſtreight on the Sides and level on the Top, it muſt be covered with Cow-Dung two Inches thick: Then ſpread two Inches of good Mould all over the Bed. Now put the Glaſſes upon the proper Spots, where the Plants are to be placed, that they may draw up the Heat. The next Day take about a Buſhel of Earth at a Time from the Compoſt (made as before directed for the early Crops) and lay it on thoſe Spots fourteen Inches thick. Into this the Plants are to be removed about three Days afterwards.

In about three Days therefore water the Plants in the Pots, that the Earth may cling to the Roots. Then turn them out gently and plant them under the Glaſſes, where they are to remain for Fruiting. Be ſure to keep them watered, and ſhaded from the Sun, till they have taken freſh Root. After this, Care muſt be taken to give them freſh Air in the Heat of the Day. This will prevent the Leaves from being ſcorched. And, as the Plants advance in Growth, the Bed muſt be earth'd up with the Mould between the Ridges mixt with ſome of the Compoſt, till it is almoſt as high as the little Hills whereon the Plants grow.

In the beginning of *May*, if the Heat of the Ridges or Beds abate, and the Nights continue cold.

Take the Mould from the Sides of the Beds as deep as the Bottom of the Dung. Then add a freſh lining of New Horſe-Dung, and cover it again with the Mould taken from the Sides.

As the Plants encreaſe in Growth ſo as to puſh againſt the Sides of the Glaſs, get ſome Reed or Moſs, and lay it all over the ſurface of the Bed, for the Vines to run upon, and to preſerve the Earth from drying too faſt.

When the Plants are grown ſo large that they cannot be contained under the Bell or Hand-Glaſſes, they ſhould then be covered with Paper Frames made full five Feet and an half wide. And on taking off the Glaſſes, ſee that the Branches lay regularly and without being entangled with each other before you put on the Frames.

When the Beds are thus covered with oiled Paper Frames, the Paths between them ſhould be filled up with Mould as high as the Beds.

For the convenience of watering theſe Plants, a deep Drill ſhould be drawn with a Hoe, cloſe to the outſide of the Frames; and when they require Water, pour it into theſe Drills, that the Fibres may have the Benefit of it, without your wetting the Leaves or Branches.

Cover them in cold Nights, heavy Rains, and bluſtering Winds; that the Frames may not be blown off, or the Branches diſplaced. But when the Weather is mild, moderate Air will be very ſerviceable to them, and then the Frames are to be tilted with a forked Stick.

With reſpect to other Articles theſe differ not from thoſe which are raiſed under Lights. It would therefore be ſuperfluous, to trouble the Reader with a Repetition of them.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM